

University Library Advisory Council

Meeting #2: Friday February 7, 2014

Present: J. McDermid (Chair), G. Beck, J. Benn, R. Cossa, D. Earn, C. Eilers, C. Galindo, S. Graham, J. Heisz, S. Huque, W. Kahl, V. Lewis, A. Mactavish, J. McKinnell, P. Miu, A. Pearce, O. Perkovic, I. Postic, M. Ramachandran, W. Wyckoff

Regrets: B. Detlor, S. Graham, W. Kahl, A. Mactavish, P. Miu, I. Postic

Guests: J. Adlington

1. **Welcome and Introductions (J. McDermid)**
2. **Review of the minutes from the November 29, 2013 meeting. (J. McDermid).** Approved by O. Perkovic. Seconded by J. McKinnell.

An updated version of the minutes will be posted to the public web site at:
<http://library.mcmaster.ca/content/university-library-advisory-committee-ulac-0>

3. **FOCUS TOPIC: E-Books (Presentation by Wade Wyckoff and Janice Adlington)**

We currently provide access to 156,085 e-books on approximately 25 different platforms. Of this number, 44,000 titles were part of the “5-minute” collection (patrons could use the book for 5 minutes before deciding whether to order it or not. Books receiving 3 or more requests were considered for purchase). Another 46,000 of the titles were science / engineering and 52,000 were social sciences/humanities and 12,000 are interdisciplinary.

Circulation of print books has gone down significantly – from 45,000 in November 2008 compared to 15,000 in November 2012.

Janice and Wade conducted a short five-minute, seven question survey last April. The target audience was faculty, graduate students and upper level undergraduates.

They received 1,100 responses – approximately 1/3 of them including comments. The response rate for faculty was significant (33%) – far fewer for other groups (14% of graduates and 9% of upper level undergraduates). Data was broken down by category of user and by discipline.

The Library is trying to have a more “nuanced” approach to e-book purchases than in the past. We recognize that the e-book platforms in humanities and social sciences are not as satisfactory as those used by scientists and engineers.

Members encouraged the library to use the survey results carefully. The binary nature of the choices might be overestimating slight preferences between e-books and print books. People who are dissatisfied with e-books might have been more interested in filling in the survey. Follow-up with the individual faculties could clarify results.

One member noted that dramatic improvements in screen resolutions make the use of e-books much more positive.

4. Report from the University Librarian (V. Lewis)

Strategic Planning: The Library is embarking on a review of its Strategic Plan (which expired in 2013). The process will involve engagement with this group and with other members of the campus community over Spring/Summer 2014.

Appointments: The Library has made one continuing appointment since the December meeting. We are very pleased to welcome Jason Brodeur as our new Manager of Maps, Data and GIS. Jason recently completed his PhD in Geography and Earth Sciences here at McMaster.

We are currently in the process of hiring a new Archives & Rare Books Librarian, a new library assistant for Thode and a new technician for Classroom Audio Visual Services.

Budget: The Library has prepared its submission for the 8-month budget review and will present to the Budget Committee on February 12. The budget looks reasonably strong thanks to adjustments agreed to last year by the Budget Committee. The adjustment will allow us to make a small number of critical hires and alleviate the need for cuts to our information resources over the three years.

Ask-A-Librarian: The new virtual reference service was launched in September 2013. 15 University Library operators are contributing approximately 22 hours a week of service to the Ontario-wide service. In return, McMaster students, faculty and staff are receiving 67 hours of service from the consortium. To date, McMaster users have asked 247 questions. On the busiest day to date (Nov. 14), McMaster operators answered 26 questions. The service is being marketed through social media (Flickr, twitter, facebook, etc.)

Human Library Project: Rick Stapleton and Rhonda Moore are working with Human Rights & Equity Services (HRES) on this project. The initiative, to be held in the Lyons New Media Centre (Mills), is part of an international movement. Individuals, often from diverse and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, can volunteer to become “human books.” Participants can request a half hour discussion with one of the human books. For details, see: <http://humanlibrary.org/>

Respect Campaign: The Library is continuing its campaign to endorse respectful behavior in the library. This term, the campaign will turn attention away from the “negative” characters (e.g., “Messy Jessy”) and focus on a single positive character (Respectful Riley). The week of February 14, will be asking students to report “acts of kindness.”

Facilities News

- a. **Mills Electrical Upgrade** – Anticipate a mandatory shutdown to upgrade electrical. The work is needed in conjunction with construction of the new Wilson Building.
- b. **Research Collections compact shelving:** Will be installing a new bank of manual compact shelving. Will provide approximately 5 years of growth space. Research Collections will be closed for approximately 3 weeks to allow the move.
- c. **Graduate Reading Room:** New space devoted to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows opened in Mills 405. Students must apply to get access to the room. Have received over 40 applications to date.
- d. **Student Self Portraits:** The new self portraits hung in the stairwell at Mills have received a lot of positive attention.

Ratings: The increase to the library’s budget will have an impact on its ratings – but the full impact will take some time to work its way through the system. Calculations are based on earlier years’ data. Vivian Lewis will provide a summary of where the Library is falling in the Macleans rankings and the ARL Investment Index to this group.

5. Open Access and Scholarly Research (O. Perkovic)

Campus Awareness: Olga Perkovic and Gabriela Mircea did a short presentation on open access, institutional repositories and McMaster's new Escarpment Press at the December 16, 2013 University Research Council. Also attended the December 17 meeting of the Graduate Student Association. They have now been asked to do similar presentations for the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Council and the Graduate Research Council.

Elsevier Take-Down Notices: Olga provided copies of the article she posted on the library web site advising researchers how to respond should they receive a notice asking them to remove Elsevier-published journal articles from public websites. The notices have been sent to research communities like Academia.edu as well as to institutions and individuals. The article can be found at: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/22567>.

Research Data: Vivian Lewis attended a Tri-Council consultation workshop on big data last week. One clear message: libraries can take an active role in supporting research data management on university campuses. The Library is exploring a partnership with Research & High Performance Computing related to research data management.

6. Next meeting - TBD